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No. VII.

SAFEGUARD FOR FIRE-ARMS.

The Silver Isis Medal was presented to Mr. J. Warner, 13 *Spann's Buildings, St. Pancras, for his Method of preventing the accidental discharge of Fire-arms.*

Sir,

I will thank you to lay before the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c., the accompanying drawing and description of a method of preventing the accidental discharge of fire-arms.

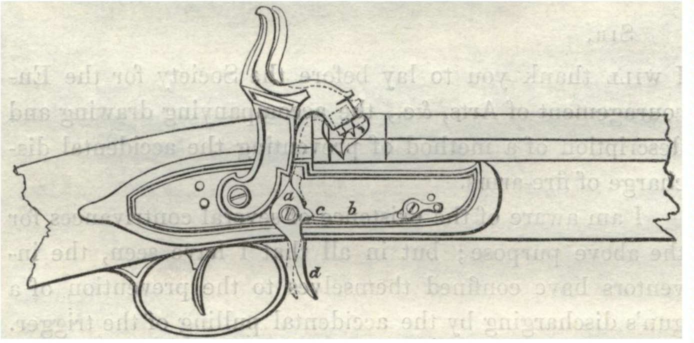
I am aware of the existence of several contrivances for the above purpose; but in all that I have seen, the inventors have confined themselves to the prevention of a gun's discharging by the accidental pulling of the trigger. That that is insufficient I can most unfortunately testify, having met with an accident, although my gun was provided with a safeguard of the kind in general use.

Many accidents occur from the circumstance of the cock, while down, coming in contact with something which raises it a short distance, and although not enough to lock it in the tumbler, is often, when suddenly released, sufficient to explode the cap and discharge the gun. This is very likely to happen when getting through a thicket, crossing a stile, climbing a fence, &c. It is also very liable to take place (and many discharges have so happened), by letting the cock slip from under the thumb when in the act of cocking, through the coldness of the hands, and from various other causes.

The present invention prevents the possibility of accident in the above-mentioned or any other way, it being impossible to discharge the gun unintentionally. This arises from the construction of the safeguard rendering both hands necessary to the purpose.

I am, Sir, &c.

A. Aikin, Esq. John Warner.
Secretary, &c. &c.



The annexed figure represents a common percussion gun-lock, with the safeguard attached. It consists of a piece of steel moving on a strong stud screwed into the lock-plate, and of which the head *a* falls into a notch in the hammer, and is there retained by the spring *b* pressing on the under side of the projection *c*. The safeguard being in this position, it is evident that the hammer, in falling down from whole-cock, half-cock, or any inferior degree of elevation, will be stopped by the safeguard just before it would otherwise strike the percussion cap. In firing, the gun is to be brought to the usual position, with the finger of the right hand on the trigger, and that of the left hand on the tail *d*. On bringing this latter to the position marked by the dotted lines, the head *a* will be thrown out of the notch, the spring *b* will rest on the upper surface of *c*, and the gun will then be discharged on drawing the trigger.

The Society think it right to caution those who may be inclined to adopt the above very simple, and apparently effectual contrivance, that there exists a patent, not yet expired, granted to the Rev. J. Somerville in November 1824, for the exclusive use, under every variety of form, of safeguards for fire-arms, such safeguards being worked by the left hand.

No. VIII.

RECOIL CARRIAGE FOR PIVOT GUNS.

The LARGE SILVER MEDAL was presented to Commander J. POLE, R.N., for his Method of Mounting Ships' Guns, a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.

THE peculiarity of Commander Pole's invention is that of mounting ships' guns on a double carriage. The lower carriage, or bed, has no motion when the gun is fired, and in consequence is attached by a pivot to the port-sill, which allows the gun to be trained fore and aft as a pivot-gun — a mode of training the easiest and most accurate, but which, with the usual carriage, is inadmissible, on account of the enormous strain on the port-sill which